

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 00236 101630Z
ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /025 W
-----106589 101633Z /53

P R 101448Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2629
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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STATE FOR "A", A/SY, EUR/EX, AND OC/EX

BONN FOR RCO AND RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP AFSP ASEC AFOP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJ: NON-PAYMENT OF HOTEL BILLS

REF: (A) BONN 00312, (B) WARSAW 0140, AND PREVIOUS

1. OUR INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF HOTEL BILLS DURING THE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL VISIT CAME FROM THE DEPARTMENT. IN REF B, WE PRESENTED THE FACTS IN THE CASE AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE AND SOUGHT GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON HOW THE UNPAID BILLS SHOULD BE SETTLED.

2. MUCH ADVANCE PLANNING WAS DIRECTED TO ASSURING PAYMENT OF HOTEL BILLS AT THE LEAST NECESSARY EXPENSE TO THE DEPARTMENT. ALL TDY COMMUNICATORS WERE INSTRUCTED TO CALL THE EMBASSY'S ACCOMMODATIONS OFFICER, MR. GAGNON, IF THEY HAD ANY QUESTION ABOUT PAYMENT OF THEIR HOTEL BILLS. MR. GAGNON STATES THAT NONE OF THE TDY COMMUNICATORS SPOKE WITH HIM.

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3. IN THE INTEREST OF ACCURACY, WE MUST TAKE EXCEPTION WITH SEVERAL STATEMENTS IN REF A:

A. WARSAW 9470 WAS NOT PROPERLY TRANSMITTED IN THE OC CHANNEL. THAT CHANNEL IS FOR COMMUNICATIONS DEALING WITH "TECHNICAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS NOT REQUIRING DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE OC OR POST COMMUNICATIONS UNITS." WARSAW 9470

DEALT WITH AN ADMPNISTRATIVE MATTER WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN
CLEARED WITH POST ADMINISTRATION. HAD IT BEEN, SUBSEQUENT
PROBLEMS COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED.

B. THE WARSAW PER DIEM OF 44 DOLLARS PER DAY WAS SUFFICIENT
TO COVER HOTEL EXPENSES AND MEALS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE EMBASSY
SNACK BAR WAS OPEN FOR MOST MEALS. THE DAILY HOTEL RATE OF
1,390 ZLOTYS WAS EQUIVALENT TO LESS THAN 31 DOLLARS AT THE OLD
ACCOMMODATION EXCHANGE RATE, LEAVING MORE THAN 13 DOLLARS PER
DAY FOR MEALS -- AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT IN WARSAW.

C. OUR BFO, MR. MCKINNON, DENIES THAT HE APPROVED OR OTHER-
WISE ACKNOWLEDGED MR. BALDWIN'S REVERSE ACCOMMODATION EXCHANGE
AS PROPER. HE RECALLS HAVING TOLD BALDWIN TO CLEAR THE EXCHANGE
WITH THE USDO, MRS. LEBLANC, SINCE IT WOULD BE HER RESPONSIBILITY.
MRS. LEBLANC STATES THAT THE EXCHANGE WAS NOT CLEARED BY HER,
BUT WAS MADE BY AN FSLE CASHIER WHO NEGLECTED TO ASK AN AMERICAN
OFFICER TO APPROVE IT.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT QUESTION THE MOTIVES OF ANY OF THE
COMMUNICATORS INVOLVED. WE DO QUESTION THE UNNECESSARY EXPENSE
TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WINDFALL PROFIT TO INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES.
AS EXPLAINED IN REF B, IF THE BILLS ARE PAID BY THE EMBASSY
THE COST TO THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE 225 PERCENT OF WHAT THEY
WOULD BE IF THEY HAD BEEN PAID BY THE INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES,
WHO HAD ACCESS TO A FAVORABLE EXCHANGE RATE. AT LEAST FOUR OF
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THE TDY COMMUNICATORS, BALDWIN, FERRY, FARMER, AND FITZSIMONS,
HAD ZLOTYS WITH WHICH THEY COULD HAVE PAID THEIR HOTEL BILLS
WITHOUT EXCEEDING THEIR WARSAW PER DIEM. THOSE ZLOTYS WERE
EITHER RECONVERTED AT A PROFIT OR ARE STILL ON DEPOSIT HERE,
UNTIL WE RECEIVE THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE. THE FOUR
COMMUNICATORS COULD PROPERLY BE ASKED TO PAY THEIR HOTEL BILLS.
WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT MR. TURNER EVER HAD SUFFICIENT ZLOTYS
PURCHASED AT THE OLD RATE TO PAY HIS HOTEL BILL OR THAT HE
REALIZED ANY PROFIT ON RECONVERSION. WE RECOMMEND THAT, IN HIS
CASE, THE EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO PAY THE HOTEL BILL, USING
THE FISCAL DATA PROVIDED IN 77 STATE 256298. END COMMENT.
DAVIES

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NNN

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